

Procedure file

Basic information		
RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects	2011/2661(RSP)	Procedure completed
Resolution on the use of sexual violence in conflicts in North Africa and the Middle East		
Subject		
4.10.09 Women condition and rights		
6.10.08 Fundamental freedoms, human rights, democracy in general		
7.30.30.02 Action to combat violence, trafficking in human beings and migrant smuggling		

Key players	
European Parliament	

Key events			
06/04/2011	Debate in Parliament		
07/04/2011	Results of vote in Parliament		
07/04/2011	Decision by Parliament	T7-0155/2011	Summary
07/04/2011	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2011/2661(RSP)
Procedure type	RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects
Procedure subtype	Resolution on statement
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 132-p2
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed

Documentation gateway					
Motion for a resolution		B7-0244/2011	04/04/2011	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B7-0245/2011	04/04/2011	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B7-0246/2011	04/04/2011	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B7-0247/2011	04/04/2011	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B7-0248/2011	04/04/2011	EP	
Joint motion for resolution		RC-B7-0244/2011	04/04/2011		

Resolution on the use of sexual violence in conflicts in North Africa and the Middle East

The European Parliament adopted a resolution condemning the use of sexual violence in conflicts in North Africa and the Middle East.

The resolution was tabled by the S&D, ALDE, Greens/ALE, EPP, and GUE/NGL groups.

It notes that women have actively participated in the uprisings for more democracy and freedoms in North Africa and the Middle East, but that the incumbent regimes in Libya and Egypt have resorted to sexual assaults as part of the conflict surrounding these revolutions, targeting women. Members call on the Commission and Member State strongly to oppose the use of sexual assaults on, and intimidation and targeting of, women in Libya and Egypt. Parliament also strongly condemns forced 'virginity tests' inflicted by the Egyptian army on women protesters arrested in Tahrir Square and considers this practice as unacceptable, as it amounts to a form of torture. It calls on Egypt's Supreme Military Council to take immediate measures to stop this degrading treatment and to ensure that all security and army forces are clearly instructed that torture and other ill-treatment, including forced 'virginity tests', cannot be tolerated and will be fully investigated. Members recommend that an independent inquiry be established in order to hold the perpetrators accountable, with particular reference to crimes within the meaning of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court committed by Muammar Gaddafi.

Members strongly believe that the changes taking place in North Africa and the Middle East must contribute towards the ending of discrimination against women and their full participation in society on equal terms with men and in compliance with the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). They call on Member States actively to promote in the long term, both politically and financially, full implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and the establishment at European level of the control institutions and mechanisms provided for therein, and on the United Nations to ensure implementation of the resolution at all international levels.

With regard to actions within the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP), Parliament stresses the need to prioritise human rights in ENP measures as an integral part of the democratisation process, and underlines the need to share EU experience on equality policy and on the fight against gender violence. It emphasises the need to support specific actions with a view to achieving systematic in the ENP countries, stressing that equality must become an integral part of the democratisation process and that, moreover, education for women and girls should be a priority and should include raising awareness of their rights. Members call on the VP/HR, the EEAS and the Commission to place at the top of the agenda for their talks with ENP southern countries the EU's political priorities of death penalty abolition, respect for human rights ? including women's human rights ? and fundamental freedoms, and the ratification of a number of international legal instruments including the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees.